

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 51-58 remain pending in the application. Claims 51, 54, 57 and 58 are independent. Claim 57 has been amended herein.

Claim 57 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to a non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claim 57 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection are requested.

Claims 51, 52, 54, 55, 57, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,930,717 (Kobayashi et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,559,963 (Kamimura). Claims 53 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. and Kamimura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,563,542 (Hatakenaka et al.). These rejections are traversed.

Independent Claim 51 recites that an image pickup apparatus, which includes an operation unit for effecting a changeover operation of an image to be displayed on a display apparatus and a designating unit for designating the image displayed on the display apparatus as a print subject for an external printer communicating with the image pickup apparatus, can cause the display apparatus to display a print setting screen, in accordance with a first designation provided to the designating unit when the image pickup apparatus is communicating with an external printer and is in a state in which an image to be displayed on the display apparatus is

changeable in accordance with an operation of the operation unit, and instruct the external printer to print the image displayed by the display apparatus, in response to a second designation provided to the designation unit successively to the first designation. (Support for such features can be found, for example, at Fig. 9.) That is, in the present invention, with only first and second designations, both of which are provided successively from the designation unit in the specific conditions recited in the claim 51, the image pickup apparatus of the present invention can display a print setting screen and instruct the external printer to print a displayed image.

Such features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references, including Kobayashi et al. and Kamimura. Kobayashi et al. discloses an electronic still camera with a built-in printer, which camera has a mode setting dial 20 for setting a setup mode, a reproduction mode, a print mode and the like. When the setup mode is set by the dial, one of a print menu and a camera menu is displayed in accordance with a detection result of an acceleration sensor 55 (see, e.g., column 9, lines 16-25), and in the reproduction mode, a cursor key 24 is used to select an image to be printed and a print key 28 is used to instruct the printer to print the selected image (see, e.g., column 4, lines 58-60 and column 10, lines 13-38). That is, in Kobayashi et al., different operation units, i.e., the mode dial and the print key, are used (operated) in the different modes (different conditions) to display the print menu and instruct the printer to print the displayed image. Kobayashi et al. fails to disclose or suggest using two successive operations of the designation unit in the specific condition to display the print setting screen and instruct the printer to print the displayed image, as recited in independent

Claim 51. Thus, Kobayashi et al. does not disclose the print control unit functioning together with the display control unit and the designating unit as in independent Claim 51.

Kamimura discloses in Fig.1 an image print apparatus in which a camera 12 is connected to a main body 14 including a printer 58. This apparatus detects (e.g., S43 in Fig. 10) connection between the main body and the camera to transmit instruction commands from the main body to the camera (e.g., Figs. 7-13). For example, print of an image displayed on a monitor of the camera is instructed by depressing a print button 61b provided on the main body (e.g., abstract, column 8, lines 30-31, and column 8, line 65 to column 9, line 3). However, this print button is used only to instruct to print an image and has nothing to do with displaying the print menu, and therefore the print button is distinguishable from the designation unit of the present invention. While Kamimura may teach to detect connection between the camera and the main body, it fails to teach the print control unit functioning together with the display control unit and the designating unit as recited in independent Claim 51.

In view of the foregoing, Kobayashi et al. and Kamimura, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the present invention recited in independent Claim 51.

The remaining citations have also been reviewed but are not believed to be any more relevant than those discussed above.

Independent Claims 54, 57 and 58 are respectively method, program and medium claims corresponding to independent Claim 51, and the features thereof are also not taught by any combination of the citations above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark A. Williamson/

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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